This topic aims to provide a thematic and chronological overview of ongoing national reforms and policy developments since 2013. Reforms are organised chronologically with the most recent ones being discussed first. All major reforms and policy developments that are older than 2013 are included in the corresponding Eurypedia topics (see Table of Contents).

The introduction of the chapter describes the overall education strategy and key objectives across the whole education system. It also provides an overview of the education reform process and drivers.

The section on ongoing reforms and policy developments is subdivided into articles on early childhood education and care; school education; vocational education and training and adult learning; higher education; and, transversal skills and employability.

The section on the European perspective provides links to European strategies on education and training.

**Launch of the project on eGovernment in the service of Cypriot education**

The project for the design and implementation of e-Government in Cyprus Education was launched on June 25, 2018, with the signing of a contract for the implementation of the "Support Services System" (SSS [1]) project, a modern computerized system designed to standardize and speed up bureaucratic procedures.

- The overall objective of SSS which will be completed in 2023 is to create an advanced information system which will ensure the immediate information, cooperation and support of the following stakeholders:
  - School Units
  - School Unit Directorate
  - Provincial Education Offices
  - Teachers
  - Parents and Pupils
  - Trade unions
  - Educational Service Committee
  - School Committees
  - The Pedagogical Institute

The project is co-funded by National Resources and by the European Union (EU) Regionall Development Fund.
Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts

On November 10, 2017, the Cyprus Academy of Sciences, Letters and Arts Law of 2017 was passed unanimously by the House of Representatives, establishing the Cyprus Academy as a Legal Entity of Public Law with independent entity status.

The main goals of the Academy are the promotion of excellence; the cultivation and promotion of Sciences, Letters and Arts; the contribution to the development of research and innovation; the promotion of the work of the Republic's scholars; the support of education and empowerment of the cooperation between Universities, Research Centers and Industry; the provision of scientifically valid information and opinion to the Republic and its institutions on scientific, technological and cultural issues and the active participation of the Republic of Cyprus in European and International Organizations of Academies. The Council of the Academy has appointed a 4-member Founding Committee for organizing and starting the Academy.

Overall national education strategy and key objectives

The overall education strategy and key objectives across the whole education system are described in the Government Programme (Πρόγραμμα Διακυβέρνησης). The report National Strategy in Lifelong Learning 2014-2020 also describes the strategic objectives and the areas of action that will be promoted by the Government, with regard to every form of learning (formal, informal and non-formal), in the period 2014-2020.

The Government programme

The overall education strategy and key objectives across the whole education system, as described in the Government Programme, are based on five pillars of educational policy, as follows:

1. **Human resource development and upgrading in education**, with reference to the following content areas:

   1.1 Modernising the system of appointment in the public educational sector;

   1.2 Upgrading the teachers’ in-service education and training;

   1.3 Modernising the evaluation system for the teachers and educational work.

2. **Modernising the administrative structures of the schools and the whole educational system**, with reference to the following content areas:

   2.1 Modernising the administrative structure of the ministry of education and culture;

   2.2 Promoting school autonomy.

3. **Upgrading the educational content and promoting effectiveness in education**, with reference to the following content areas:

   3.1 The curricula;
3.2 The timetables;
3.3 Textbooks.

4. **Supporting and empowering all learners**, with reference to the following content areas:

4.1 Promoting new technologies in the educational system;
4.2 Pursuing educational success and literacy;
4.3 Promoting differentiation in the learning process.

5. **Expanding and upgrading tertiary education**, with reference to the following content areas:

5.1 Increasing the number of students;
5.2 Upgrading the private institutes/universities;
5.3 Promoting international cooperation;
5.4 Modernising the legal framework for the operation of private institutes of tertiary education.

Further information is available from the [website of the Ministry of Education and Culture](#) [2]

### National strategy for Lifelong Learning 2014-2020

The Council of Ministers approved, on 18 June 2014, the National Strategy for Lifelong Learning 2014-2020, which defines the strategic aims and priorities of the Government regarding Lifelong Learning (LLL) and prescribes the main actions to be promoted within the following areas of priority:

1. Encouraging access to LLL for all;
2. Improving the quality and effectiveness of education and training;
3. Promoting research and development to support LLL;
4. Improving employability by promoting enrolment and re-enrolment in the labour market.

Securing LLL for all is a responsibility both of the Government and the social partners.

For a detailed description of the measures provided within each priority area, see the report [National Strategy for Lifelong Learning 2014-2020](#) [3]

### Overview of the education reform process and drivers

Reforms in education are based on policy objectives of the Government and views and suggestions of experts and stakeholders.

The Council of Ministers is the highest authority for education policy-making, while overall
responsibility for education rests with the Ministry of Education and Culture. In the reform process, the Ministry of Education and Culture is responsible for drafting proposal measures, laws and budgets submitting them for approval to the House of Representatives via the Council of Ministers. The Attorney’s General Office (Γραφείο Γενικού Εισαγγελέα) acts as the legal adviser to the Ministry.

The Education Council (Συμβούλιο Παιδείας) is a consultative body to the Minister of Education and Culture, the objective of which is to initiate dialogue on reforms in the whole education system. It is made up of representatives from all of the parliamentary parties, the Permanent Secretary of the Ministry of Education and Culture, the Permanent Secretary of the Planning Bureau, (renamed, by Law 127(I)/447, as Directorate General for European Programmes, Coordination and Development, on November 1st 2013), the Chairman of the Education Committee of the House of Representatives, as well as other interested bodies. It is presided over by the Minister of Education and Culture.

The Education Committee of the House of Representatives is central to the education reform process, as it scrutinises the policies and expenditure of the proposed reforms.

Major reforms on the restructuring of the educational system are usually based on views and suggestions of experts’ committees appointed Ad Hoc by the Government.

Public consultation with the various stakeholders is a common practice in the reform process. The teachers’ and the parents’ organisations are considered the main stakeholders in the process.

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